

6/19/76

VV ESA774DOA062
 RR RUESBA
 DE RUESDO 2270 1711620
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH
 R 191607Z JUN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1529

INFO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 6040/6041

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CU 063

ACTION-COPY R

AMB		✓	PAO	
DCM		✓	L GATT	
			DEA	
POL	(3)		FAS	
ECAM		✓	AID	
POI/R		✓	MILGP	
COA		✓	PE	
ADM				
ICS		✓		
ST			CHROV	
SY			RE	

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, UY

SUBJ: IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGES BY WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE

REF: USINFO MESSAGE 172034Z

1. USINFO MESSAGE 172034Z, COVERING WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE'S TESTIMONY BEFORE FRASER COMMITTEE, STATES HE SAID ZELMAR MICHELINI AND GUTIERREZ RUIZ, URUGUAYANS RECENTLY MURDERED IN ARGENTINA, HAD APPLIED FOR VISAS TO COME TO THE US THROUGH US EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES. HE ALSO CHARGED, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, THAT THE US AMBASSADOR TO URUGUAY HAD RELAYED THIS INFORMATION TO URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT WHICH PROMPTLY CANCELLED ALL THEIR PAPERS, LEAVING THEM STRANDED IN ARGENTINA, AND THAT THIS WAS REALLY A DEATH SENTENCE CARRIED OUT AT THE BEHEST OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT. THE OBVIOUS IMPLICATION OF THIS TOTALLY UNFOUNDED AND IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGE IS THAT THE US AMBASSADOR TO URUGUAY HAD PARTICIPATED IN WHAT HE CHOSE TO CALL "A DEATH SENTENCE".

2. NEITHER THIS EMBASSY NOR EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES (CONFIRMED IN BUENOS AIRES 4035 TO MONTEVIDEO ON JUNE 19, 1976) HAS ANY RECORD THAT EITHER MICHELINI OR GUTIERREZ RUIZ EVER APPLIED FOR A VISA, WERE EVER ISSUED OR REFUSED A VISA, OR WERE EVER THE SUBJECTS OF A VISA CLEARANCE INQUIRY TO EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO. ALSO SEE BUENOS AIRES 6629 OF OCTOBER 3, 1975. MOREOVER, I DID NOT AT ANYTIME DISCUSS IN ANY MANNER WITH GOU OFFICIALS THESE INDIVIDUALS, OR THEIR STATUS. INSOFAR AS I HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THEY, AS WELL AS WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE, WERE PERSONAGES INVOLVED IN URUGUAYAN INTERNAL POLITICS FROM WHICH THIS EMBASSY HAS REMAINED SCRUPULOUSLY ALOOF.

3. THE SAME INTEGRITY CANNOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE WHO HAS EITHER DIRECTLY, OR THROUGH HIS ASSOCIATES, ATTEMPTED AT VARIOUS TIMES TO INVOLVE THIS EMBASSY, ME PERSONALLY OR OTHER OFFICIALS IN

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PROJECT (S200000044)

U. S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exception(s):

() In Part (X) In Full DECONTROL

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date: Declassify on Reason

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72 POLITICAL AFFAIRS; FOR EXAMPLE:

A) BEFORE I WAS ASSIGNED TO THIS POST, AS THE DEPARTMENT IS FULLY AWARE, HE AND OTHER URUGUAYAN POLITICAL FIGURES IN BUENOS AIRES, NOTABLY EX-SENATOR ERRO, PARTICIPATED IN A DELIBERATE SMEAR CAMPAIGN CHARGING THAT I WAS A CIA AGENT, THAT I HAD PARTICIPATED IN A WHOLE SERIES OF NEFARIOUS DEALS IN LATIN AMERICA ETC., ETC.; THE OBJECTIVE OBVIOUSLY BEING TO CLOUD MY ACCEPTANCE TO THIS COUNTRY AND MY RELATIONS WITH A GOVERNMENT HEADED BY HIS POLITICAL ENEMIES.

B) UPON HIS DEPARTURE FROM HERE TO ASSUME THE DIRECTORSHIP OF APU IN WASHINGTON, FRANK ORTIZ, WHO HAD BEEN CHARGE FOR YEAR BEFORE MY ARRIVAL, VISITED BUENOS AIRES AS PART OF PREPARATION FOR HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THERE CAME BACK REPORTS FROM BUENOS AIRES THAT ORTIZ HAD MET SECRETLY WITH WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE. THIS ALLEGATION WAS TOTALLY FALSE AND WAS PRECISELY AGAIN INTENDED TO DIMINSH THE CREDIBILITY OF ORTIZ AND ME, THE NEW AMBASSADOR, WITH THE URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES.

C) AT VARIOUS TIMES ACCUSATIONS OF MY HAVING INTERVENED IN ONE SIDE OR OTHER IN LOCAL POLITICS CAME TO MY ATTENTION AND WERE TRACEABLE TO ADHERENTS OR ASSOCIATES OF WILSON FERREIRA. IN NOT ONE SINGLE INSTANCE (MOSTLY INVENTIONS CHARGING ME WITH SECRET MEETINGS WITH POLITICAL FIGURES ETC.) WAS THERE EVEN A SHRED OF TRUTH. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, I HAVE DIRECTED OFFICIALS OF THIS EMBASSY TO MAINTAIN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, INCLUDING WILSON FERREIRA ADHERENTS. BUT THIS IS ALWAYS DONE OPENLY, MOSTLY IN PUBLIC PLACES, NEVER IN SECRET AND NEVER BY ME.

D) MORE RECENTLY, WHEN WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE'S SON WAS BRIEFLY HELD IN PRISON AND THEN RELEASED HERE, HE THANKED AN EMBASSY OFFICER FOR MY SUPPOSED INTERCESSION FOR HIM. THE FACT IS THAT I HAD NOT INTERCEDED AND THE OBVIOUS PURPOSE OF THIS PLOY, WHICH WAS WIDELY COMMENTED ON IN MONTEVIDEO, WAS AGAIN TO SEEK TO INVOLVE ME IN URUGUAYAN POLITICS.

E) ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO THE UN REP. IN BUENOS AIRES, WHO WAS VISITING MONTEVIDEO, TOLD THE DCM THAT WILSON FERREIRA WANTED TO MEET WITH HIM IN BUENOS AIRES. THE DCM OF COURSE DECLINED THE INVITATION. HOWEVER, THE MERE FACT OF TRANSMITTING THE MESSAGE WOULD ENABLE FERREIRA TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY.

4. THE OBVIOUS OBJECTIVE OF THE TACTICS WHICH HAVE BEEN USED BY WILSON FERREIRA AND HIS ADHERENTS IS THAT OF THE DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD;

A) FOR INTERNAL IMPACT HERE HE SEEKS TO DISCREDIT ME AND THIS MISSION WITH THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT BY CHARGING SOME SECRET LIAISON WITH HIM--THE PURPOSE BEING TO UPSET GOOD RELATIONS AND THEREBY, PRESUMABLY,

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WEAKEN HIS URUGUAYAN POLITICAL ENEMIES; AND

p2
B) FOR EXTERNAL IMPACT, HE CHARGES ME AND THIS EMBASSY WITH SUPPORTING A DICTATORIAL VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ORDER TO UNDERMINE COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND URUGUAY, THUS AGAIN REDUCING THE BENEFITS WHICH HIS POLITICAL ENEMIES MIGHT DERIVE FROM NORMALLY GOOD RELATIONS.

5. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THIS EMBASSY HAS DONE ITS UTMOST TO REPORT OBJECTIVELY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN URUGUAY, TO INFLUENCE PRIVATELY THE GOV TO CORRECT SUCH ABUSES AS EXIST, AND TO REMAIN SCRUPULOUSLY OUT OF INTERNAL URUGUAYAN POLITICS. WHILE THERE IS OBVIOUSLY SOME SUBSTANCE TO THE CHARGES THAT WILSON FERREIRA HAS MADE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THIS COUNTRY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THOSE OF AI WHICH APPARENTLY SPONSORS HIM, THE TRUTH IS SO FAR REMOVED FROM THE EXAGGERATIONS AND DISTORTIONS WHICH HE AND AI HAVE TYPICALLY ENGAGED IN THAT THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY CONCLUDED, APPARENTLY, THAT ITS BEST DEFENSE IS SIMPLY TO PUBLISH WHAT HE HAS BEEN SAYING ABROAD. WHATEVER THE IMPACT ON THE WORLD MAY BE, HIS RECENT DECLARATIONS HAVE TENDED TO UNDERMINE HIS CREDIBILITY IN URUGUAY WHERE THE PEOPLE KNOW BETTER WHAT HAS APPENED.

6. ACTION REQUESTED

A) I ASK THAT THE DEPARTMENT INFORM CONGRESSMEN FRASER AND KOCH, AND OTHERS WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN THESE MATTERS, OF THE FALSENESS OF WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE'S CHARGE AGAINST ME IN REGARD TO MICHELINI AND GUTIERREZ RUIZ, AS REPORTED USINFO. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE MADE AWARE, IN THIS ERA OF GROWING DANGER TO DIPLOMATS, OF THE IRRESPONSIBILITY OF SUCH CHARGES WHICH OBVIOUSLY EXPOSE ME, MY FAMILY AND ASSOCIATES HERE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF REPRISALS BY THOSE WHOULD WOULD BELIEVE, AS WILSON FERREIRA HAS IMPLIED, THAT I PARTICIPATED IN THE "DEATH WARRANT" OF POLITICAL FIGURES IN BUENOS AIRES. OUR FLAG AT HALF-MAST IN MEMORY OF OUR DIPLOMATS MURDERED IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS TESTIMONY TO THIS DANGER. IT IS DOUBLY DANGEROUS THAT THE US CONGRESS BE USED AS SPRINGBOARD FOR SUCH ACCUSATIONS BECAUSE OF THE PRESTIGE AND WIDE AUDIENCE THIS FORUM COMMANDS. SINCE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES HAVE EMONSTRATED COMMENDABLE INTEREST AND CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BY GIVING WILSON FERREIRA A HEARING, PERHAPS THEY CAN ALSO INFLUENCE HIM ON THE VIRTUES OF THE TRUTH AND DANGER OF IRRESPONSIBILITY.

B) PROVIDE THIS EMBASSY WITH FULL TEXT OF WILSON FERREIRA'S TESTIMONY. SIRACUSA

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